

TJC Board Meeting January 16, 2025

7:05 President Heidi Joseph called the meeting to order.

Attendees: Heidi Joseph, Rachelle Simon, Marci Meixler, Abbye Cornfield, Suzanne Esterman, Polly Strauss, Leah Boustan, Jen Black, Judy Kutin, Roberta Sternthal, Abigail Rose, Moshe Margolin, Melissa Hager, Louise Sandburg, Michael Goldin, Jane LeGrange, Jeremy Spiegel, Fred Appel, Lynne Ross, Edye Kamenir, Adam Pechter, Dana Molina, Joel Berger

I. D'var Torah

None this week as Rabbi Merow is away.

II. Budget Update

Leah: There is good news about membership. The latest from January is 411 full household dues members. There were 392 in May 2024. There were 408 in 2022. There was a Covid dip but now numbers are back up. There are 507 household units.

The Annual Fund is doing well. Last year 303k was raised. We are now at 279k with 5 months to go, although we try to reach our goal by the end of February.

Heidi: A lot of regular donors have not given yet and we need to ask.

We are starting the process now to budget next year's needs. Joel will talk with each committee chair about their budget. The Finance committee will meet in February. Since 2020, costs are up 20% due to inflation. Dues were only raised slightly last year. We will discuss future raises and a possible lock in—if you pay by a certain date you can lock in last year's rate. Instead of raising dues, we can add an assessment for something specific (e.g. right now we have a security assessment) if dues appear too expensive.

Moshe: Another assessment causes bad feelings. Just explain that costs have gone up.

III. The Great Jewish Laugh Off - Jan 25

Heidi: Two comedians are coming. Also, there are raffles for \$10/ticket. About 120 tickets were sold. There are also several sponsorships.

IV. Upcoming Events and Holidays

Day of Chesed - Jan 19

Lynne: Bagels at 8:45. There is an opening ceremony with several volunteer opportunities. 76 people signed up for projects and 34 for the blood drive. Walk-ins are expected. There is an opportunity to contribute to Fire relief for the Jewish LA community also.

Tim Reif - Jan 22 7:30 talk

Fred: A descendant of the owner of an extensive art collection who was killed in the holocaust will talk on repatriation of the art to the Grunbaum family. There is a Zoom link available but not advertised to encourage in person attendance.

Great Minds Salon - Jan 23

Adam: I will talk about my contacts in Syria and what's really happening on the ground in Syria. The talk is only on Zoom.

Here There are Blueberries - Feb 2 at Mccarter

World-wide Wrap - Feb 9 organized by the Men's Club.

Tu B'Shvat Zoom with Magen Avraham - Feb 23

Scholar in Residence - Mar 21 - 23

Heidi: more info to come.

V. Committee Updates

Jeremy: The Religious School has 152 students. Last week over 40 attended Shabbat L'kulanu. There is a dinner tomorrow night with about 100 people registered. We invite the whole school rather than by grade and are seeing better attendance. There are trips to the Brooklyn museum for

3rd and 4th graders. Ten High School students are going to DC with Sharon to study social action from a Jewish perspective.

Lynne: The Programming Committee has planned a JCW bus trip to the Anne Frank exhibit in NYC in March. There will be a Women's Shabbat. Arts and Culture has organized an Italian cooking experience with a flyer coming soon. The community dinners in a home program is ongoing. There are monthly movies during the day with as many as 50 people. The next one is March. People have said they wanted to get more involved so we want to give them opportunities. We need to make an effort to get more people engaged.

Suzanne: New members do fill out an interest form and receive info about activities.

Edye: Can we have a central listing with people's data and interests?

Joel: We can have a database like that.

Lynne: We need to figure out the desired categories.

Melissa: I encourage everyone to come to the Chesed event even if they haven't signed up.

Jane: Religious Affairs reports that Myra Weiner and Judy Richman are chairing a Shabbat Across TJC in May with people signing up as hosts and guests.

Jen: Membership reports 32 new members this fiscal year. There is a new procedure for delivering baskets with documentation to facilitate discussion of all the resources and volunteer opportunities in TJC.

VI. 2025-26 Planning

Heidi: There is a problem with the timing of the Board election. The new Board takes over in June, but budget planning happens in March. We want

to know if people will stay in their roles for next year. If everyone can meet with Joel by the end of Feb to discuss budget needs for your committee for next year.

VII. New Business

Rachelle: Apartment update from Ari: The heating system in the school building was upgraded. We are exploring the addition of thermostatic valves to the apartment for energy efficiency. We received approval from the Planning Department to install a fire escape to fulfill our insurance requirement. A building permit was submitted last week and we expect approval within days. Once the permit is issued, the installation is expected to take 3-4 days. This is the final step needed to make the apartment ready for occupancy. Hopefully the apartment will be ready for occupancy by the end of the month.

Heidi: Nobody wants to be the Fundraising chair. Therefore, we will set up an Office of Development staffed by past presidents, Linda, Randy, Alexandra, and Jesse, who will use their relationships to help us fundraise.

VIII. Good and Welfare

Community Works - Jan 27th

Heidi: princetoncommunityworks.org. This is a meeting at MCCC with professionals leading workshops on issues for nonprofits i.e. fundraising, networking.

Greenwood House

Heidi: Thank You's were received for the notes we wrote.

Munchies for Mensches

Heidi: Thank You's were received.

Next Board Meeting - Feb 20

Lew is in a Somerset Valley players show Over the Rainbow.

Moshe called for approving the minutes from 12/19/24 and Adam seconded. None were opposed and minutes were approved.

Judy: Sun Jan 26 there will be a special viewing of The Brutalist at the Garden.

7:56 Meeting adjourned